

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AZERBAIJAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

## HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2018*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Republican of Azerbaijan for the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, which was celebrated on May 28, 2018.

In the Republic of Azerbaijan, May 28th is known as the "Republic Day". This past Republic Day celebrated the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the first secular parliamentary republic in the Muslim VWorld.

In 1991, the United States recognized Azerbaijan as an independent state following the collapse of the Soviet Union, and established diplomatic relations the following year. I would like to highlight that, over the last 26 years, Azerbaijan has established itself as a reliable friend of the United States. Since the attacks of September 11, 2001, Azerbaijan has been a critical ally of the United States in combating international terrorism through several joint U.S.-Azerbaijani operations in Afghanistan, the Balkans, and Iraq.

On a more international level, Azerbaijan has strong economic, military, and strategic ties to Israel, representing one of Israel's greatest allies in the region. Azerbaijan's energy sector is also key to combating Russian influences across the region. Altogether, the country plays a critical role in the diversification of energy routes, and helps support allies of the United States' allies by doing so.

I would like to formally congratulate the Republican of Azerbaijan for the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, and I look forward to continued strong relations between the United States and Azerbaijan for many years to come.

## JOINT TASK FORCE TO COMBAT OPIOID TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2018

SPEECH OF

## HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2018*

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my committee's bill, the Joint Task Force to Combat Opioid Trafficking Act.

Dangerous narcotics and other synthetic opioids are fueling a drug epidemic that is destroying people's lives.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), about 115 people die every day from an opioid overdose. Just think about that—115 people every day.

They are not just strangers. They are moms and dads, brothers and sisters, friends and neighbors.

Most of us know someone who has struggled with substance abuse or drug addiction.

We cannot allow these numbers to climb. We have to reverse this dangerous trend. We need to act together now.

I am proud to say that the Committee on Homeland Security has been taking action on this issue.

Recently, President Trump signed our INTERDICTION Act. This bill provides CBP with additional funds and resources to screen and detect synthetic opioids at the border.

Today, we held a field hearing in Pennsylvania to review ways to strengthen coordination at the local, state, and federal levels in our fight against drugs.

We are taking many positive steps, but we must do more.

We can start by passing this bill that establishes a Joint Task Force at DHS to prohibit narcotics, such as fentanyl, and others from entering the United States.

It also strengthens partnerships between federal agencies and the private sector.

This is a unifying cause. Stopping the flow of drugs into our country will allow more Americans to follow their dreams and build a bright future.

I would like to thank Congressman LANDEVIN and Congressman PETER KING for their leadership and hard work on this issue. And I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2018*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on June 19, 2018, I was unavoidably detained due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 269, and YEA on Roll Call No. 270.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2018*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on June 19, 2018, I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on No. 269 and 270 and I would have voted "NAY" on No. 271.

## BACKUP IS COMING FOR HOUSTON'S FIRST RESPONDERS

## HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Harvey pushed Houston first-responders to the limit. While groups like the Cajun Navy and other private citizens provided invaluable support to the Houston community in helping with emergency relief, peace officers and firefighters were under-equipped to deal with the massive flooding that displaced thousands from their homes. With only old and decrepit boats at their disposal, they were forced to conscript canoes and kayaks.

To put it simply, they needed more boats.

The Houston Fire Department requested 20 boats from the city to help bolster their water

rescue fleet, but the city was strapped for cash and could not feasibly pay for 20 boats on their own. Luckily, one group decided to step up and help.

The 100 Club donated 14 new rescue boats to first responders in Houston and Harris County. The group gave the Houston Police Department and the Harris County Sheriff's Office five boats each and the Houston Fire Department four. This will provide a much-needed boost to the fleets of these departments, who are now only in need of just a handful of boats from the city.

The 100 Club has a history of helping Houston's finest. The organization has provided millions of dollars in financial aid to the families of fallen officers, scholarships and grants to officers and fire fighters, and equipment for first responders. After observing the water rescue efforts during the hurricane, the group began conversing with the authorities in Houston, who all highlighted the need for more rescue boats.

Mr. Speaker, our first responders provided invaluable assistance to the Houston community during and after Hurricane Harvey, despite their lack of equipment. After all, the tools do not make the man. But the gracious donation by the 100 Club will allow these selfless individuals to serve their communities more effectively. The generosity shown is just another example of why the greatest people on earth live in America: they will always help each other.

And that is just the way it is.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2018*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Tuesday, June 19, 2018, due to cancellations and delays to my scheduled return flights to Washington.

If I had been able to vote, I would have voted as follows:

On H.R. 5687, the SOUND Disposal and Packaging Act, I would have voted "yea."

On H.R. 5676, the SENIOR Communities Protection Act, I would have voted "yea."

On the Journal Vote, I would have voted "nay."

## DR. TODD GRAHAM PAIN MANAGEMENT, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2018

SPEECH OF

## HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2018*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6110, the Dr. Todd Graham Pain Management, Treatment, and Recovery Act of 2018. Introduced by my colleague on the Ways and Means Committee, Representative JACKIE WALORSKI, this legislation would direct the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to conduct a review on how to improve the use of non-opioid treatments for pain management for Part A and B Medicare beneficiaries.